

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127829

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NATO, NAC

SUBJECT:1978 NATO SUMMIT

REFS: A. USNATO 04295; B. PARIS 16152

1. YOU MAY INDICATE TO KILLICK THAT WE ENVISION THAT THE
SPRING 78 SUMMIT WOULD FOLLOW THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING
BY A COUPLE OF WEEKS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET FIXED ON
SPECIFIC DATES,WE WOULD SEE THEM COMING WITHIN NORMAL
RANGE OF DATES FOR SPRING MEETINGS. MISSION MAY ALSO DRAW
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ON THIS AS APPROPRIATE IN CONVERSATION WITH OTHER MISSIONS,
NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO
PROPOSE A SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

2. WITH REGARD TO KILLICK'S QUESTION ON FRENCH PARTICIPA-
TION, FRENCH REPRESENTATION AT SPRING 1978 SUMMIT IS OF
COURSE THEIR NATIONAL DECISION, BUT WE WOULD NATURALLY LIKE

TO HAVE THEM THERE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD DOWNPLAY OUR INTENT TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO DEFENSE ISSUES, HOWEVER. AGENDA FOR 1978 SUMMIT WILL INCLUDE THE EAST-WEST STUDY IN ADDITION TO THE RESULTS OF THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES, THUS GIVING IT A BROAD POLITICAL AS WELL AS DEFENSE FOCUS.

3. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ANY ASPECT OF THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES WITH WHICH THEY ARE PREPARED TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES. WE ARE WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE ON HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED PROVIDED FLEXIBILITY DOES NOT RESULT IN SLOWING DOWN WORK ON INITIATIVES. REFTEL B SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH HAVE BEGUN THINKING HOW THEY MIGHT ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH WORK ON INITIATIVES, AND WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE THIS. WE ASSUME THEY WILL BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH QUESTIONS OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. IN THIS REGARD, THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON CNADS, THE NADGE, AND THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTEROPERABILITY MAY INVOLVE THEM IN SOME OF THE WORK ON THE INITIATIVES, AT LEAST PERIPHERALLY. THE FRENCH WILL ALSO BE KEY ACTORS IN THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP'S CONSIDERATION OF A POSSIBLE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON DEFENSE TRADE.

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